R & D activities in university

2840. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the PM, while addressing Indian Science Congress, had stated that R & D in our university system was not receiving the requisite attention as in specialised agencies and laboratories, whereas science education and research were the fountain-head of all technological development; and

(b) if so, whether UGC is earmarking certain percentage of its grants towards R & D activities in universities and whether this is adequate in the present scenario?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) UGC is giving grants to assist the universities towards R & D activities. The quantum of funds depends on the overall availability of funds.

Assistance for studies for economically disadvantaged students

2841. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any new proposal for helping socially/economically disadvantaged and academically bright students for their further studies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c) The Government propose to launch several measures addressing the key issues of access, quality and relevance to encourage the students from the socially and economically disadvantaged sections of the society. Besides, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has proposed five new schemes for